CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	☐ Force	☐ Discourt.	U.S.
Peter Hoy (S7)		Squad #14	201403900	☑ Abuse	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Tuesday, 04/22/2014 7:20 PM		East 152nd Street and	Γinton Avenue	40	10/22/2015	10/22/2015
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/Time	e Received at CCI	RB
Wed, 04/23/2014 4:16 PM		CCRB	Phone	Wed, 04/2	23/2014 4:16 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Elvis Duran	21865	946965	PSA 7			
2. SGT Khandakar Abdullah	03383	942924	PSA 7			
3. An officer			PSA 7			
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	Tax No	Cmd Name			
1. POM Braulio Aponte	00581	948623	PSA 7			
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on		Inve	estigator Recon	nmendation
A.SGT Khandakar Abdullah	Abuse: S § 87(2)(b)	Abuse: Sgt. Khandakar Abdullah stopped the car in which and \$87(2)(b) were occupants.				
B.SGT Khandakar Abdullah	Abuse: Sgt. Khandakar Abdullah searched the car in which and str(2)(b) were occupants.					
C.POM Elvis Duran	Abuse: PO Elvis Duran issued a summons to §87(2)(b)					
D. An officer	Abuse: An officer threatened to use force against \$87(2)(b)					

Case Summary

On April 22, 2014, § 87(2)(b)	was driving with his f	riend, § 87(2)(b)	in the vicinity
of East 152nd Street and Tinton Ave	enue in the Bronx. At approx	ximately 7:20 p.m., the	ir vehicle was
stopped by PO Elvis Duran, PO Bra	ulio Aponte, and Sgt. Khand	lahar Abdullah of Polic	e Service Area 7
(Allegation A). The officers instruc	cted § 87(2)(b) and § 87(2)(b)	to exit the v	ehicle, after which
Sgt. Abdullah searched the vehicle (
stopped him for a missing headlight	, tinted windows, and driving	g on the wrong side of	the road.
explained that he had bee	en driving around potholes ar	nd the officers told him	they would give
him a break. However, when he pro	oceeded to argue with the off	icers about the reasons	for the stop, PO
Duran issued him a summons for §87			
incident, an unidentified officer alle	gedly said, "He's lucky I do	n't beat his ass," in refe	erence to
\$ 87(2)(b) (Allegation D).			

This case was initially assigned to Investigator Christopher Mills. On April 14, 2015, following Investigator Mills' resignation from the CCRB, the case was reassigned to Assistant Supervising Investigator Peter Hoy for closure.

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

•	§ 87(2)(b)	and § 87(2)(b)	both agreed to mediate this complaint.	§ 87(2)(g)

- Without New York State Identification Numbers, a search of the Office of Court Administration database could not be conducted for the conviction histories of \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)
- On April 20, 2015, it was confirmed via telephone by the Bronx Criminal Court that the summons issued to \$87(2)(5) was dismissed on \$87(2)(5).
- As of May 21, 2015, no notice of claim has been filed with the Office of the Comptroller by either or \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- PO Duran has been a member of the service for six years and has two prior substantiated allegations from one prior CCRB complaint. In CCRB case number 201108423, the allegations substantiated against him were for a stop and a vehicle search. The Board recommended charges, but the NYPD did not take any disciplinary action. (encl. 2A)
- Sgt. Abdullah has been a member of the service for eight years and there are no substantiated allegations against him. §87(2)(9)

(encl. 2B)

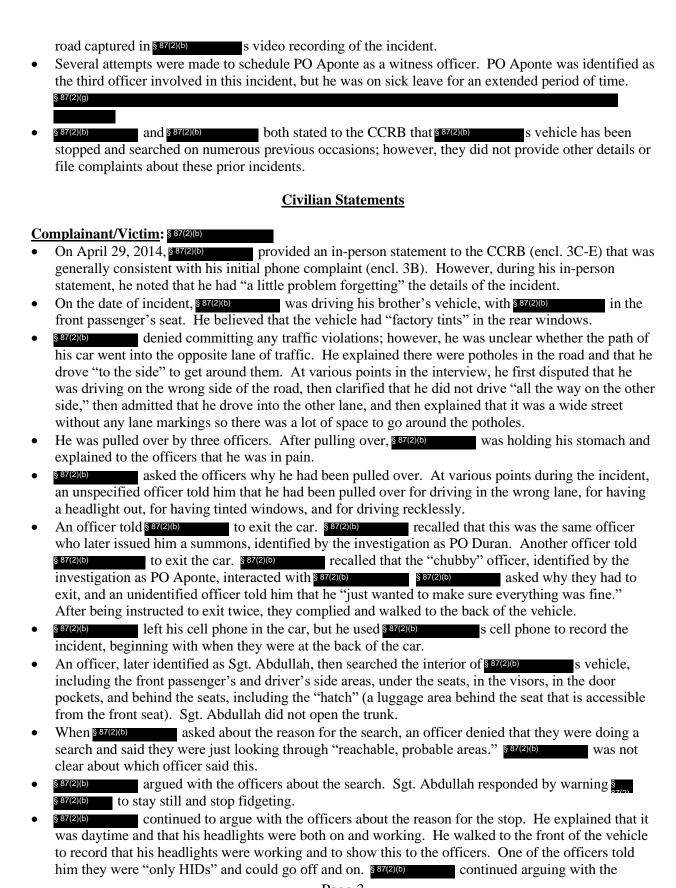
(encl. 2C)

has not filed any other complaints with the CCRB. (encl. 2D)

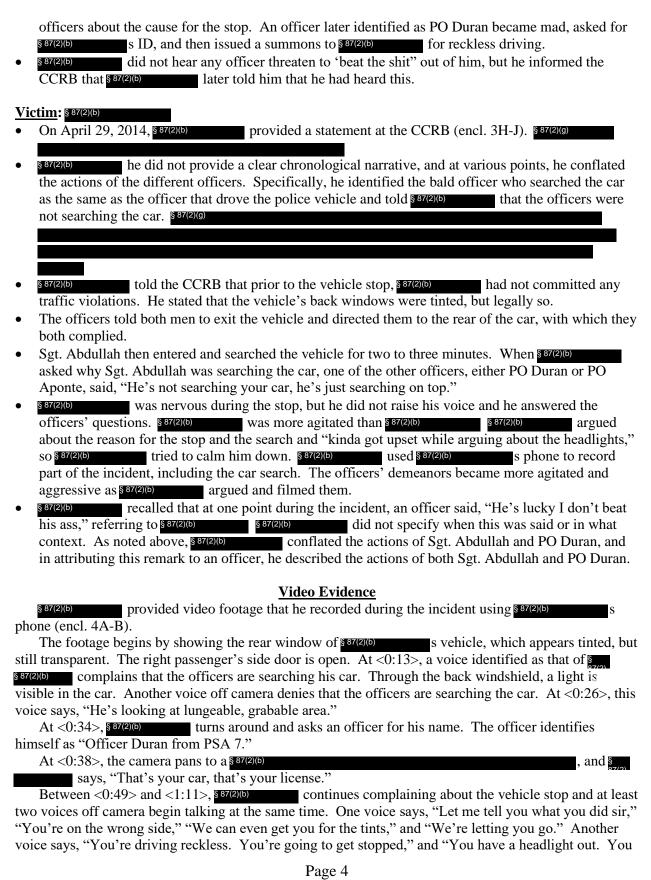
Potential Issues

• Both the civilians and the officers described the incident location as being near 815 East 152nd Street. In comparing the video footage to images from Google Street View (encl. 2E), it is clear that the vehicle stop, in fact, occurred in front of 664 Tinton Avenue, around the corner and approximately 250 feet away from 815 East 152nd Street. The following is visible on Google Street View: Tinton Avenue is a two lane road, with two travelling lanes going in opposite directions and parking on both sides of the street; in the middle of the street is a flush median outlined by two sets of double yellow solid lines with white crosshatch markings between them; and the paint is very faded and not visible in certain stretches of the road. The Google Street View images are consistent with the images of the

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have tinted windows. You're driving on the wrong side of the road. What you want us to do, brother?"

At <1:18>, an officer, identified by the investigation as Sgt. Abdullah, leans into the passenger's side of the car. At <1:28>, he walks around the car and then leans into the driver's side of the vehicle.

Solventian asks about the search and an unidentified voice says, "That's not a search. Lungeable, grabbable area."

At <1:43>, Sgt. Abdullah faces the camera, raises his hand, and says, "You leveled the safety up to here... I told you to relax. You're fidgety, the whole time." sand pains and complains about the officers' behavior.

At <2:23>, \$87(2)(b) records that both headlights are on and then continues arguing with the officers about the reason for the stop. At <2:34>, an officer identified as PO Duran then says, "You know what, I'm going to give you a summons for reckless driving. Give me your ID."

Between <1:33> and <2:08>, part of the road is visible and it shows faded, hashed, lane markings in the center of the road. From <2:26> onward, another part of the road is visible and it shows in various points, no lane markings or very faded lane markings. It also shows potholes in the road.

NYPD Statements

Subject Officer: PO Elvis Duran

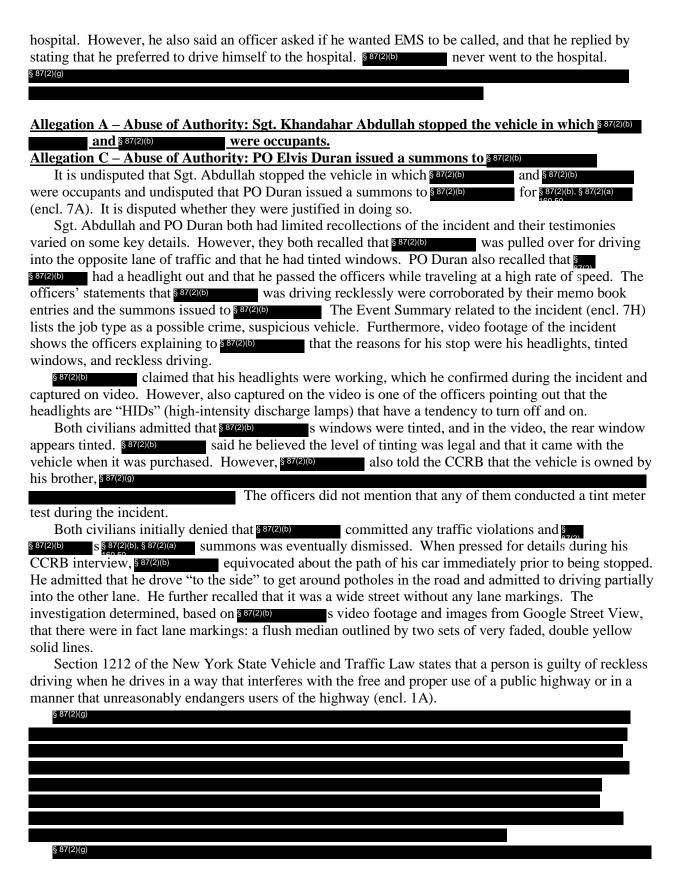
- On September 17, 2014, PO Duran was interviewed at the CCRB (encl. 5D-E), but he failed to bring his memo book to the interview and did not recall with whom he was working on the incident date. Initially, he stated that he did not recall the incident. However, after viewing the video footage, he identified himself in the video and recalled that he issued a summons during the incident, but he still could not identify the other officers with whom he was working.
- On October 15, 2014, PO Duran was interviewed a second time at the CCRB (encl. 5F-H), this time bringing his memo book, which noted that he was working with PO Aponte. He provided a more detailed account of the incident that was consistent with his memo book entries.
- PO Duran did not know if he was working with other officers besides PO Aponte.
- At the time and place of occurrence, PO Duran observed \$87(2)(b) driving recklessly. \$37(2)(b) was driving behind the officers and then passed them at a high rate of speed. He drove into the opposite lane, across a double yellow line, making it difficult for oncoming traffic to flow. PO Duran did not recall potholes or any other obstructions in the roadway.
- The officers pulled \$87(2)(b) s vehicle over. PO Duran approached the driver's side and spoke to \$87(2)(b) who was irate, cursing, and uncooperative with PO Duran's requests for information and identification. During the incident, \$87(2)(b) repeatedly said he "had to take a shit" and explained that he was on his way to the hospital.
- was also fidgeting, which PO Duran described as "trying to hide things in the lungeable grabble area," seeming to be hiding something near the center cup holders, and moving his hands in a rapid motion towards the cup holders. PO Duran did not see \$87(2)(5) gripping anything. PO Duran could not see what was there and he asked \$87(2)(5) to stop moving.
- PO Duran was concerned with \$37(2)(b) s demeanor and thought he might attack the officers. As a precaution, both \$37(2)(b) and a passenger, identified by the investigation as \$37(2)(b) were told to exit the vehicle. PO Duran had to instruct \$37(2)(b) to do this more than once before he complied.
- Initially, PO Duran did not recall if any officer searched the vehicle or took any action to determine if anything had been placed near the cup holders. PO Duran noted that, "We don't search cars." After viewing the video footage, PO Duran still denied any recollection of a vehicle search, but acknowledged that he told that the officers do not search vehicles, they "look at lungeable grabbable areas." However, PO Duran did not recall any officer searching the lungeable, grabbable area during the incident. PO Duran explained his understanding of the "lungeable,"

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•	grabbable" area of a vehicle as follows: "It could be a cup holder, [inaudible], a floor mat, and pretty much that's it Anywhere you could hide stuff." PO Duran stated that he never entered the vehicle.
•	Although PO Duran was initially planning to use his discretion to let \$87(2)(b) go without a summons, \$87(2)(b) continued arguing about the reasons for the stop and was repeatedly cursing at the officers about the stop. PO Duran ultimately decided to issue \$87(2)(b) a summons for \$87(2)(b), \$87(2)(a) .
Su	bject Officer: Sgt. Khandahar Abdullah
•	On January 29, 2015, Sgt. Abdullah was interviewed at the CCRB (encl. 6C-D). Initially, he did not remember the incident, but after viewing the video footage, he recalled some details about it.
•	Sgt. Abdullah was assigned to anticrime with PO Duran and PO Aponte. PO Duran was the operator. They observed driving in front of them, in the wrong lane of a two-way street and pulled him over in order to investigate why he was driving on the wrong side of the road and possibly issue a summons.
•	Sgt. Abdullah indicated that \$87(2)(b) s vehicle windows were tinted. Sgt. Abdullah approached the driver's side and asked for \$87(2)(b) s license and registration. 887(2)(b) only rolled his window down halfway. Sgt. Abdullah described \$87(2)(b) as as appearing nervous and fidgety. 887(2)(b) avoided eye contact and looked away from the officers. He was leaning to his right side, near the center console, as though he was attempting to
	conceal something from the officer's view, but Sgt. Abdullah did not recall if \$87(2)(b) actually reached into the console. Sgt. Abdullah also described his demeanor as belligerent, noting that he spoke in a loud tone and refused to provide the requested documents, despite multiple requests from Sgt. Abdullah.
•	Sgt. Abdullah instructed \$87(2)(b) to get out of the vehicle multiple times. \$87(2)(b) was initially noncompliant, but eventually both he and \$87(2)(b) a passenger in the vehicle, exited and were taken to the rear of the vehicle. \$87(2)(b) was calm. \$87(2)(b) was calmer once they had exited vehicle.
•	Sgt. Abdullah then "looked inside" the vehicle, including the passenger's and driver's side areas, near the seats, in the crevices between the console and the seats, in the foot area, and around where had been seated. Sgt. Abdullah did this because, based on \$87(2)(b) as earlier actions, he suspected \$37(2)(b) had been concealed something. Nothing was recovered during the search and no other officers searched the vehicle.
	Findings and Recommendations
Ex	planation of Subject Officer Identification
•	Sgt. Abdullah was the supervisor on scene and he admitted that he was the officer who searched the vehicle. §87(2)(9)
•	PO Duran said that it was his decision to issue the summons to \$87(2)(b)
•	As discussed in further detail below, the officer who allegedly made the threat of force could not be identified. §87(2)(b) did not hear the remark and §87(2)(b) simultaneously attributed the remark to more than one officer, confusing the issue of which officer it was. §87(2)(9)
A 11	agations Not Dlandad
	Abuse of Authority – Refusal to obtain medical attention: §87(2)(b) said he was experiencing mach pain during the incident and told the officers that he needed to leave and possibly go to the
510	much pain during the increasin and told the officers that he needed to leave and possiory go to the

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CCRB-Confidential



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§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation B - Abuse of Authority: Sgt. Khandahar Abdullah searched the vehicle in which 887(2)(6)
and § 87(2)(b) were occupants.
Both civilians alleged that Sgt. Abdullah searched the vehicle. §87(2)(b) specified that he
searched under the seats, in the visors, in the door pockets, and behind the seats, including the luggage
area that is accessible from the front seat, but that he did not open the trunk. Video footage confirms that
Sgt. Abdullah leaned into both the passenger's side and driver's side doors, and confirms that Sgt.
Abdullah was using a flashlight while inside the car.
Sgt. Abdullah acknowledged that he looked inside the vehicle, including the passenger's and driver's
side areas, near the seats, in the crevices between the console and the seats, in the foot area, and around
where \$87(2)(b) had been seated. Sgt. Abdullah said nothing was recovered during the search and
no other officers searched the vehicle.
Sgt. Abdullah said that he searched the car because \$87(2)(b) s actions made him think
had concealed something in the vehicle. Sgt. Abdullah explained that when he approached the
car, \$87(2)(b) only rolled the window down halfway and then refused to provide his license and
registration when asked. He described \$87(2)(b) as belligerent, raising his tone of voice, as well as
nervous and fidgety, avoiding eye contact and looking away from the officers. He also described
leaning to his right side, near the center console, as though he was attempting to conceal something from the officer's view. Sgt. Abdullah did not recall if \$87(2)(0) actually reached into the
console or had anything gripped in his hand. Sgt. Abdullah also said that \$87(2)(b) initially refused
to get out of the vehicle when instructed.
PO Duran initially denied the car was searched, and after viewing the video, clarified that he did not
recall a search and did not recall any reasons for a search to be conducted. However, he did note that
had been reaching towards the cup holder rapidly with his hands and appeared to be trying to
hide something. After viewing the video footage, PO Duran still denied any recollection of a vehicle
search, but acknowledged that he told \$87(2)(b) that the officers do not search vehicles, they "look a
lungeable grabbable areas."
claimed that he was cooperative with the officers during the stop. However, he did
admit to arguing with the officers, and both \$87(2)(b) steet testimony and the video footage show that
was upset during the incident.
§ 87(2)(g)
Where a vehicle's occupants have been removed without incident such that any immediate threat to

Where a vehicle's occupants have been removed without incident such that any immediate threat to the police officer's safety has been eliminated, it is generally unlawful for the officer, in the absence of probable cause, to invade the interior of a stopped car. However, if information gathered during a stop reveals that there is a substantial likelihood of a weapon being present in the vehicle and that the weapon poses an actual and specific danger to the officer's safety, the officer would be justified in engaging in a limited intrusion into the suspect's vehicle, notwithstanding the suspect's inability to gain immediate

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	weapon. <u>People v. Newman</u>	96 A.D.2d (1st Dep	t. 2012) (encl. 1B-G)	
§ 87(2)(g)				
§ 87(2)(g)				
c ()(c)				
Allega § 87(2)(b)	ation D – Abuse of Author	ity: An officer thre	atened to use force against	87(2)(b)
§ 87(2)(b)			er said, "He's lucky I don't bea	
reference to §8	7(2)(b) § 87(2)(b) e video footage.	did not hear any o	fficer make this remark. The	remark is not
§ 87(2)(b)	did not provide specif		mark. Furthermore, his testim	
			, § 87(2)(b) conflated the ons to them both that were determined to the conflated the	
the investigation	on to have only been done b	y one officer. He si	imultaneously attributed the al	leged threat to
			a car search was not being co	
	the investigation as PO Dur gation as Sgt. Abdullah).	an), and also to the	bald officer who searched the	car (identified
§ 87(2)(g)	,,			
§ 87(2)(g)				
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